

## One Descendant of

### Isaac Weed (1786-1873)<sup>1</sup>

**1. ISAAC WEED**, son of Charles and Dorothy (Goodwin) Weed, was born at Amesbury, Essex County, Massachusetts, on 1 October 1786<sup>[2]</sup> and died at Topsham, Orange County, Vermont, on 29 September 1873.<sup>[3]</sup> He married at Topsham, on 5 September 1810, **SALLY JONES**<sup>[4]</sup> born about 1793.<sup>[5]</sup>

The Vermont of today is well-known for its skiing, fall foliage, maple syrup, and, of course, the lovable “Vermont Teddy Bear.” After the American Revolution, Vermont’s main attraction was cheap land. The population increased two-and-a-half fold between the Revolution and the War of 1812.<sup>[6]</sup> In 1800, one hundred acres could be bought with money saved over 1-2 years. The first wheat crop planted could pay for the clearing, fencing, sowing and cultivation. The cultivation of the land increased its value 8-10 times. Vermonters generally married early and produced large families.<sup>[7]</sup>

The War of 1812 (the “Second War with Britain”) changed Vermont’s economy. The U.S. suspended trade with Canada in 1808, a move not popular with western Vermont residents who relied on this trade to make a living. Smuggling and opposition to the war spread.<sup>[8]</sup> After the war, recovery was slow. When trade resumed with Britain, inexpensive imported goods filled U.S. markets which made it difficult for Vermont goods to compete forcing some factories to shut down. To compete, the remaining factories increased their manufacturing which led to a need for more farm products. The raising of sheep increased to meet the needs of the textile mills, and Vermont became the number two producer of wool.<sup>[9]</sup>

And then came 1816, “the year with no summer.” Spring arrived early with plenty of rain, but a drought followed; then a frost in June and a foot of snow. Frosts continued throughout the summer. Corn crops were killed but some managed to resprout. Hunger was everywhere, but fortunately little starvation. Vermonters in poor situations helped their neighbors who were in even worse circumstances.<sup>[10]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The author thanks Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG for reviewing the first draft.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Weed, Revolutionary War Pension Application File S17,515, W25,495; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>3</sup> Town of Topsham, Records of Births, Marriages, Deaths, 1857-1896, v. 3, p. 258, microfilm no. 1,004,105; Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, Utah.

<sup>4</sup> Topsham Town and Vital Records, 1771-1860, v. 1, p. 224; FHL microfilm 28,980.

<sup>5</sup> Charles Weed, Revolutionary War pension no. S17,515, W25,495, RG 15, NA-Washington.

<sup>6</sup> John J. Duffy, Samuel B. Hand, Ralph H. Orrin, editors, *The Vermont Encyclopedia*, (Lebanon, N.H.: University Press of New England, 2003), 4.

<sup>7</sup> Walter Hill Crockett, *Vermont, The Green Mountain State*, 4 vols. (New York: The Century History Company, 1921), 2: 506-07.

<sup>8</sup> Duffy, et al., *The Vermont Encyclopedia*, 10.

<sup>9</sup> Crockett, *Vermont, The Green Mountain State*, 3: 130-31.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 3: 134-35.

Lake Champlain, in western Vermont, was the major trading route with Canada. In order for Vermont to have easy access to American markets, a canal from the lake to the south was needed. This was accomplished in 1823 when the Champlain-Hudson cutoff to the Erie Canal opened. Now, more markets were available for Vermont goods. But the down side was that cheaper western wheat was imported into Vermont which hurt the local farming economy. The farmers adapted by switching to other crops, wool production, and dairy farming. The canal also opened easy access to the west for Vermonters with an itch to move on. Immigration to Vermont had been slowing since the second war with Britain and many began leaving, some for the factories and some for the land out west.<sup>[11]</sup>

So, it was the period of growth into which young Isaac Weed, age sixteen, arrived in 1803 with his parents and siblings. His father, Charles, bought his first (and only) lot of twenty-two-and-one-quarter acres for \$100.00 in the town of Topsham,<sup>[12]</sup> a lot Isaac would eventually inherit. Seven years after arriving, Isaac married Sally Jones. It seems Isaac did not serve during the War of 1812: he does not appear in a printed index<sup>[13]</sup> or in the NARA index of 1812 soldiers.<sup>[14]</sup> He purchased a small lot of two-and-a-half acres for twenty dollars on 14 July 1818.<sup>[15]</sup> By this time, he and Sally had four children. Before the purchase, they were probably living in the household of Isaac's or Sally's parents.

Isaac apparently remained on his lot until 1827 when he sold it for ten dollars; he probably moved in with his aging parents at that time.<sup>[16]</sup> In 1832 he was the sole beneficiary of his father's estate. He received all of the real and personal property but was required to support his mother, Dorothy, and his sister Miriam, until their deaths. Should he fail to carry out these requirements, the estate was to be turned over to one of his brothers under the same conditions.<sup>[17]</sup> The 1840 census shows he was complying: Dorothy, age 88, was named as a pensioner in his household. It also appears Miriam was present – there was an extra female present in the proper age group and one person was listed as “insane and idiotic.” Charles had described Miriam as “an idiot” in a court declaration when applying for a pension.<sup>[18]</sup>

By 1840, the thirteenth child appeared in Isaac's household. Sally appears to have given birth to the first twelve children. In March of 1837 she stated her age was forty-four and signed a court declaration pertaining to the revolutionary war pension for Isaac's widowed mother. Sally declared that “she resides in this deponent [Dorothy Weed]

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<sup>11</sup> Duffy, et al., *The Vermont Encyclopedia*, 10.

<sup>12</sup> Topsham Deeds, v. 3, p. 116; FHL microfilm 28,976.

<sup>13</sup> Herbert T. Johnson, Adjutant General, *State of Vermont Roster of Soldiers in the War of 1812-1814* (1933; reprint, Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995), 443.

<sup>14</sup> *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812*; microfilm publication M602, 234 rolls (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Record Services), roll 221.

<sup>15</sup> Topsham Deeds, v. 6, p. 291, microfilm no. F-1992; Department of Buildings and General Services (DBGS), Middlesex, Vermont.

<sup>16</sup> Topsham Deeds, v. 7, 1823-1827, p. 448; FHL microfilm 28,977.

<sup>17</sup> Topsham Deeds, v. 9-10, 1833-1841, p. 34-36; FHL microfilm 28,978.

<sup>18</sup> Charles Weed, Revolutionary War pension no. S17,515, W25,495, RG 15, NA-Washington.

family and [Dorothy] is her mother in law....”<sup>[19]</sup> Her court statement shows she was still alive and living with Isaac when, two years earlier in 1835, the twelfth child was born. The last recorded child of Isaac was born in 1839. Sally would have been about forty-six; a female in the appropriate age group was present in Isaac’s 1840 household.<sup>[20]</sup> All the children appear to be accounted for in the 1840 census with the exception of two who had died. The older ones had married and started their own households.

Dorothy died on 15 October 1840 in Topsham.<sup>[21]</sup> Where she was buried, and when and where Miriam died are unknown. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1841 Isaac sold the land he had inherited from his father. Isaac received \$1000.00 for the lot purchased in 1803 for \$100.00. He sold the entire lot except for the portion used as a “Burying Ground.”<sup>[22]</sup> Possibly, his mother and other family members are buried in that section. Since there was no dower release in the deed, it is not clear if Sally was alive when the lot was sold. A survey of one Topsham deed volume showed no dower release was recorded in any of the 300+ deeds, so the lack of a release is not an indication that Sally was no longer present.<sup>[23]</sup>

Isaac was counted twice in the 1850 census. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August he was in Goshen Gore with his daughter Annette and her probable husband Isaac Garfield.<sup>[24]</sup> One month later, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, he was thirty-five miles south in Topsham with his daughter Olive, her husband Perly Ransom, seven children, and a boarder.<sup>[25]</sup> Isaac may have moved from one household to the other between visits by the enumerators. Sally and Miriam were not present. They may have died; death records or graves have not been located for either one.

Eventually Isaac established his own household in Goshen Gore. In 1860 there were only two people in that residence: Isaac, age 70, and Malvina, age 48. He was farming with real estate valued at \$1100, and nearby were a couple of his sons.<sup>[26]</sup> However, his fortunes changed considerably during the next decade. By 1870 he was back in Topsham living in the poor house. His recorded age was 80 and listed with him was Almina Weed,

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<sup>19</sup> Charles Weed, Revolutionary War pension no. S17,515, W25,495, RG 15, NA–Washington.

<sup>20</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Orange County, Vermont, Topsham, p. 245 (stamped), line 14, Isaac Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 December 2006); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 543.

<sup>21</sup> Charles Weed, Revolutionary War pension no. S17,515, W25,495, RG 15, NA–Washington.

<sup>22</sup> Topsham Deeds, v. 9-10, 1833-1841, p. 457; FHL microfilm 28,978.

<sup>23</sup> Topsham Deeds, v. 7, 1823-1827; FHL microfilm 28,977.

<sup>24</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Goshen Gore, p. 509 (penned), p. 254 (stamped), dwelling 6, family 6, Isaac Garfield; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 922.

<sup>25</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Orange County, Vermont, population schedule, Topsham, p. 398 (penned), dwelling 1439, family 1540, Perley S. Ransom; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 December 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 926.

<sup>26</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Caledonia County, Vermont, population schedule, Goshen Gore, p. 131 (penned), dwelling 951, family 942, Isaac Weed; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1317. A second marriage record for Isaac has not been located.

age 65; she was recorded as “Insane.”<sup>[27]</sup> It is not clear if this is the same woman he was with in 1860. Could this have been Miriam? Isaac died in the poor house on 29 September 1873.<sup>[28]</sup> A search of the Topsham death records did not reveal an entry for Malvina, Almina, or Miriam Weed.<sup>[29]</sup> Deceased residents of the Topsham poor house were buried in nearby Waits River Cemetery,<sup>[30]</sup> but a search of this cemetery did not find any Weed burials.<sup>[31]</sup> Possibly the graves of the poor were not marked. Records of the poor house have not been located.<sup>[32]</sup>

Children of Isaac and Sally (Jones) Weed (the births of the first four children were recorded in one town record entry<sup>[33]</sup> as were the births of the final nine<sup>[34]</sup>):

- i. DANIEL WEED, b. Topsham 5 March 1811; d. Stannard, Caledonia County, Vermont, 23 March 1888;<sup>[35]</sup> m. (1) \_\_\_\_\_, who died about February 1842;<sup>[36]</sup> m. (2) BETSY RANSOM,<sup>[37]</sup> b. Walden, Caledonia County, Vermont, ca. 18 August 1805, daughter of Thomas and Bridgett (Brady) Ransom, d. Stannard 15 March 1886;<sup>[38]</sup> m. (3) Stannard 20 March 1887 CYNTHIA (BADGER) SMITH,<sup>[39]</sup> b. Topsham ca. 13 May 1830,<sup>[40]</sup> daughter of Samuel and Cynthia (Clifford) Badger, d. Stannard 16 May 1896.<sup>[41]</sup>
- ii. POLLY WEED, b. Topsham 1 November 1812; d. Topsham 7 March 1834;<sup>[42]</sup> m. Walden, Caledonia County, Vermont, 3 April 1832 LEVI M. WATERMAN,<sup>[43]</sup> b. Thetford, Orange County, Vermont, 5 April 1813, son of Henry and Sally (Powers) Waterman,<sup>[44]</sup> d. Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 7 July 1885.<sup>[45]</sup>

<sup>27</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Orange County, Vermont, population schedule, Topsham, p. 22 (penned), dwelling 206, family 214, Thomas H. Minard (Poor House); digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1622.

<sup>28</sup> Topsham Records of Births, Marriages, Deaths, v. 3, 1857-1896, p. 258; FHL microfilm 1,004,105.

<sup>29</sup> Topsham Records of Births, Marriages, Deaths, v. 3, 1857-1896, Town Clerk's office, Topsham, Vermont. Examined all death entries in this volume. No entry was found for Malvina, Almina, or Miriam Weed.

<sup>30</sup> Town of Topsham History Committee, compiler, *History of Topsham, Vermont, with Craig's Topsham Sketches* (The Town of Topsham, Vermont, 2000), 322.

<sup>31</sup> Waits River Cemetery (Waits River, Orange County, Vermont; Route 25); personally searched 2007.

<sup>32</sup> Town Clerk's office, Topsham, Vermont. Examined various record books and boxes of records during a personal visit on 17 August 2007.

<sup>33</sup> Topsham Town and Vital Records, 1771-1860, v. 1, p. 246; FHL microfilm 28,980.

<sup>34</sup> Topsham Town and Vital Records, 1792-1896, Libr W, p. 170; DBGS microfilm F-1996.

<sup>35</sup> Daniel Weed and Cynthia Weed, widow, Civil War Pension Application File WO 446,030, WC 303,226; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications ..., 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628. The date of birth is calculated from the age at death.

<sup>39</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>40</sup> The date of birth is calculated from the age at death [note 41].

<sup>41</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>42</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1760-1870; DBGS microfilm F-30404.

<sup>43</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1760-1870; DBGS microfilm F-30404.

<sup>44</sup> Donald Lines Jacobus, compiler, *The Waterman Family*, 2 vols. (New Haven, Connecticut: Edgar F. Waterman, 1942), 2: 494-95. A birth record was not found in the vital record card index.

<sup>45</sup> Levi Waterman death record, 1885; Massachusetts Archives, Boston.

- iii. OLIVE WEED, b. Topsham 11 February 1815; d. probably Topsham 1880-1900;<sup>[46]</sup> m. (1) PERLEY S. RANSOM,<sup>[47]</sup> b. Vermont, ca. December 1809,<sup>[48]</sup> d. probably Topsham 19 April 1851;<sup>[49]</sup> m. (2) CLERGY W. REYNOLDS,<sup>[50]</sup> b. Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont, ca. 9 March 1821, d. Topsham 19 August 1888.<sup>[51]</sup>
- iv. SALLY WEED, b. Topsham 12 May 1817; m. Topsham 31 March 1835 WILLIAM HOOD, Jr.<sup>[52]</sup> They were divorced May 1848.<sup>[53]</sup>
- v. MOSES J. WEED, b. Topsham 6 October 1819.
- 2 vi. EPHRAIM G. WEED, b. Topsham 25 February 1822; d. Stannard, Caledonia County, Vermont, 28 July 1906;<sup>[54]</sup> m. Topsham 26 March 1843 ROXANA HOOD.<sup>[55]</sup>
- vii. ISAAC WEED, b. Topsham 27 July 1824.
- viii. ANNETTE WEED, b. Topsham 6 June 1827; d. Walden, Caledonia County, Vermont, 7 May 1874;<sup>[56]</sup> m. probably ISAAC GARFIELD,<sup>[57]</sup> b. Glover, Orleans County, Vermont, ca. 22 December 1824, son of John and Esther (Daniels) Garfield,<sup>[58]</sup> d. Wheelock, Caledonia County, Vermont, 5 June 1892.<sup>[59]</sup>
- ix. ELIJAH WEED, b. Topsham 7 January 1829.
- x. AUGUSTA WEED, b. Topsham 21 January 1831; d. Manchester, Hillsborough County,

<sup>46</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Orange County, Vermont, population schedule, Topsham, Enumeration District [ED] 144, p. 16 (penned), dwelling 152, family 154, Clergy W. Reynolds; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 January 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1346. Olive is present in the household. Olive shares the same tombstone as Clergy W. Reynolds in the East Topsham Cemetery, Orange County, Vermont. There are no dates for her on the tombstone. She was not found in Vermont in the 1900 census at *Ancestry.com*, or in the vital record card index.

<sup>47</sup> No marriage record for Olive Weed and Perly Ransom has been located. The 1850 census [note 25] shows their household. Isaac Weed (Olive's father) is also present in the household.

<sup>48</sup> East Topsham Cemetery (East Topsham, Orange County, Vermont; Topsham-Corinth Hwy Road), Perley S. Ransom marker; personally read 2007. The date of birth is calculated from the inscription "died Apr. 19, 1851 AE 41 yrs 4 ms." The place of birth is from the 1850 census [note 25].

<sup>49</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1760-1870; DBGS microfilm F-30347.

<sup>50</sup> No marriage record for Olive Weed and Clergy W. Reynolds has been found. 1860 U.S. census, Orange County, Vermont, population schedule, Topsham, p. 259 (penned), dwelling 2104, family 2124, Clergy W. Reynolds; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 Jan. 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1323. Clergy's household consists of Olive Reynolds, 45, Harriet Ransome, 12, and Albert Ransome, 15. In 1850 there was a Harriet, age 2, and Albert, age 4, in the household of Perley and Olive Ransom [note 25].

<sup>51</sup> Topsham Town and Vital Records, 1792-1896, Libr W, p. 288; DBGS microfilm F-1996. Clergy's date of birth is calculated from the age at death.

<sup>52</sup> Topsham Town and Vital Records, 1771-1860, v. 1, p. 259; FHL microfilm 28,980.

<sup>53</sup> William Hood Civil War Pension Application File SO 547,367, WO 383,738; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications ..., 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C. The file contains a document from the Supreme Court of Judicature, Caledonia County, Vermont, indicating a divorce was granted. Other documents in the file indicate Sally may have gone to New York. No second marriage or death for her was found in the Vermont Vital Record Card Index.

<sup>54</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1871-1908; DBGS microfilm F-30628.

<sup>55</sup> Topsham Town and Vital Records, 1792-1896, Libr W, p. 139; DBGS microfilm F-1996.

<sup>56</sup> Walden Births, marriages, deaths 1857-1882; FHL microfilm 889,295, item 4.

<sup>57</sup> No marriage record has been found for Annette Weed and Isaac Garfield. The 1850 census [note 24] shows Annette as the apparent wife of Isaac Garfield. Also in the household is Isaac Weed (father of Annette Weed). Annette's death record [note 56] lists her as "Annette (Weed) Garfield" with a birthplace of Topsham; no parents were recorded.

<sup>58</sup> Wheelock Vital Statistics, Book 1, 1857-1896, p. 121; FHL microfilm 1,869,749, item 3. The date of birth is calculated from the age at death.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

- New Hampshire, 11 April 1921;<sup>[60]</sup> m. Greensboro, Orleans County, Vermont, 25 November 1852 VALENTINE M. CURRIN,<sup>[61]</sup> b. Canada, November 1829.<sup>[62]</sup>
- xi. ANDREW J. WEED, b. Topsham 28 April 1833; d. Topsham 27 May 1834.<sup>[63]</sup>
  - xii. MARY WEED, b. Topsham 22 December 1835.
  - xiii. LAISHA J. WEED, b. Topsham 1 December 1839.

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<sup>60</sup> Augusta A. Currin death record, 1921; New Hampshire Division of Vital Records Administration, Concord.

<sup>61</sup> Greensboro Town and Vital Records, 1814-1871, p. 219; FHL microfilm 28,252, item 1.

<sup>62</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, population schedule, Ward 3 Manchester, Enumeration District [ED] 97, p. 20 (penned), p. 42A (stamped), dwelling 140, family 293, Valentine Currin; digital image by subscription, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 May 2007); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 947. A death record was not located in New Hampshire or Vermont vital records.

<sup>63</sup> Vermont Vital Record Card Index 1760-1870; DBGS microfilm F-30405.